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LATE ITEM

IRAQ:

A. THE IRAQI ARMY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT AL-SALIM ARIF HAS OUSTED THE BAATHIST REGIME. A MILITARY JUNTA HAS ASSUMED POWER AND THE BAATH'S NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN ORDERED DISSOLVED.

B. ALL ARMY UNITS APPEAR TO HAVE ALIGNED THEMSELVES WITH THE NEW REGIME. THE ARMY MET WITH SOME RESISTANCE FROM NATIONAL GUARDSMEN IN BAGHDAD AND THE CITY IS NOT YET QUIET. NO CASUALTIES HAVE BEEN REPORTED AMONG THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

C. ARIF, FIRST NAMED PRESIDENT AFTER THE 1958 COUP AND ACTUALLY QASIM'S DEPUTY, LATER FELL OUT WITH QASIM AND WAS AT ONE TIME CONDEMNED TO DEATH. HE IS GENERALLY PRO-NASIR, BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE NASIR TRUSTS HIM.

D. BAATH FOUNDER MICHEL AFLAQ, SYRIAN LEADER AMIN AL-HAFIZ, SYRIAN CHIEF OF STAFF SALAH JADID, AND LEADERS OF BAATH BRANCHES IN JORDAN AND LEBANON HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN CAUGHT IN BAGHDAD BY THE COUP.

E. THE SYRIAN BAATHIST REGIME, WHOSE EXISTENCE IS NOW SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED, HAS CONDEMNED THE COUP [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] NON-BAATHIST ARMY ELEMENTS MAY WELL ATTEMPT TO SEIZE POWER IN DAMASCUS WHERE BAATHIST COFOUNDER SALAH AL-DIN BITAR HAS ASSUMED POWER.

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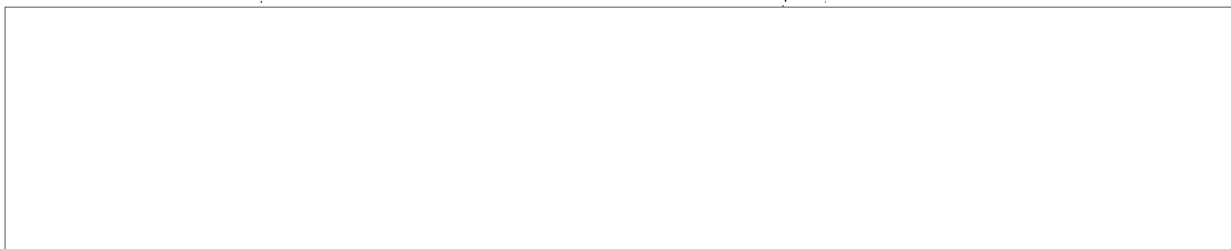
F. CAIRO RADIO IS UNDERSTANDABLY GLEEFUL.

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THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST--18 NOVEMBER 1963

1. BARGHOORN:

A. JUDGING BY WHAT BARGHOORN TOLD OUR EMBASSY IN LONDON, HE WAS THE VICTIM OF A FLAGRANT PROVOCATION.



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C. THE EMBASSY LONDON REPORT MAKES NO MENTION OF THE "DEPOSITION" OF BARGHOORN WHICH GROMYKO, IN HIS STATEMENT TO CHARGE STOESSEL IN MOSCOW, THREATENED TO PUBLISH SHOULD THE US CAST DOUBT ON THE JUSTIFICATION FOR BARGHOORN'S ARREST.

2. USSR-BERLIN:

A. THE SOVIETS REPLIED ON SATURDAY TO THE WESTERN COMMUNICATIONS OF 29 OCTOBER ON AUTOBAHN PROCEDURES.

B. THEY CLAIM A 29 JUNE 1945 MEETING OF THE ALLIED COMMANDERS IN CHIEF ESTABLISHED THAT SOVIET MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES "CONTROL" THE PASSAGE OF PERSONS AND GOODS OF ALLIED FORCES THROUGH SOVIET CHECKPOINTS.

C. MOSCOW SET OUT ITS PROCEDURES AS FOLLOWS: "VERIFICATION OF PERSONNEL IS ALLOWED IN THE VEHICLES IF THE TOTAL DOES NOT EXCEED AN AVERAGE OF TWO OR THREE MEN PER VEHICLE NOT INCLUDING DRIVERS. IN THIS CASE VERIFICATION CAN BE MADE WITH TAILGATES DOWN OR WITH TAILGATES UP IF A COUNT IS THEN POSSIBLE."

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3. SOUTH VIETNAM:

A. THE NEW MILITARY RULERS ARE HAVING THEIR DIFFICULTIES.

B. REMARKS MADE BY CAO DAI LEADER, GENERAL LE VAN TAT, UPON HIS RETURN TO SAIGON SUGGEST THAT THE SECTS WILL PUT CONDITIONS ON GIVING THE GOVERNMENT ACTIVE SUPPORT.

C. THE NEW FREEDOM OF THE PRESS MAY BE SHORT LIVED. AN INFORMATION MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT THOSE PAPERS WHICH REPEATEDLY PRINT FALSE OR HARMFUL STORIES WILL BE CLOSED DOWN.

D. [REDACTED] MORALE IN THE SECURITY SERVICES 50X1 HAS FALLEN AS A RESULT OF NEW APPOINTMENTS MADE BY POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL XUAN. ON THE OTHER HAND, A TIGHTER CHAIN OF COMMAND IN THE ARMED FORCES, LONG SOUGHT UNDER DIEM, IS GOING INTO EFFECT.

E. THE PHILIPPINES EMBASSY HAS HANDED OVER FORMER MINISTER OF CIVIC ACTION HIEU TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES AFTER RECEIVING GUARANTEES OF HIS SAFETY. THERE HAD BEEN TWO ATTEMPTS BY MOBS TO SACK THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY AND TAKE OUT HIEU. IN BOTH CASES THE ARMY WAS CALLED OUT TO DISPERSE THE CROWDS.

F. THE BRITISH AND AUSTRALIAN EMBASSIES IN PARIS BELIEVE FRANCE PLANS TO RESUME NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAIGON THIS WEEK WITHOUT FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT. [REDACTED] 50X1

[REDACTED] 50X1

4. JAPAN - NATIONALIST CHINA:

A. TOKYO, IN RESPONSE TO TAIPEI'S FURIOUS REACTION, IS CHANGING ITS MIND ON DISPOSITION OF THE RECENT DEFECTOR FROM THE MAINLAND.

B. HE WILL PROBABLY NOW BE TURNED OVER TO THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS RATHER THAN BE ALLOWED TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO THE MAINLAND. ALSO JAPAN WILL LET THE NATIONALIST EMBASSY HAVE ANOTHER CRACK AT CONVINCING HIM TO COME TO TAIPEI.

C. OUR EMBASSY IN TAIPEI COMMENTS THAT WHILE A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION OF THE CASE WOULD PREVENT A FURTHER DRASTIC SLUMP IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IT IS NOT GOING TO MAKE THEM MUCH BETTER. TAIPEI IS STILL VERY ANXIOUS ABOUT THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF AN EXPANSION OF JAPANESE TRADE WITH THE MAINLAND.

5. USSR-IRAN:

A. SOVIET PRESIDENT BREZHNEV WAS DUE IN IRAN YESTERDAY TO PROBE IRANIAN SUSCEPTIBILITY TO FURTHER SOVIET GESTURES.

B. THESE SO FAR HAVE CONSISTED OF AN INCREASE IN CULTURAL EXCHANGES, FAVORABLE PROPAGANDA ON THE SHAH'S LAND REFORM PROGRAM, AND THE EXTENSION OF A \$39 MILLION CREDIT.

C. BREZHNEV WILL PROBABLY NOT MAKE ANY MAJOR OFFER OF AID, HOWEVER, SINCE AN IRANIAN POLITICAL QUID PRO QUO DOES NOT SEEM TO BE IN THE CARDS.

6. NOTES:

A. BURMA: NE WIN HAS BROKEN OFF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNIST INSURGENTS AND IS CRACKING DOWN ON MEMBERS OF THE PRO-COMMUNIST NATIONAL UNITED FRONT, OVER 400 OF WHOM HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. THIS MAY COOL OFF HIS OPPOSITION, WHICH HAS BEEN VERY RESTIVE LATELY.

B. LAOS: KONG LE AND PATHET GENERAL SINGKAPO AT THEIR MEETING ON SATURDAY DECIDED ON TALKS "EVERY TUESDAY AND SATURDAY" LEADING TO A MEETING BETWEEN SOUVANNA AND SOUPHANNOUVONG. THEY ALSO AGREED TO ISSUE CEASE-FIRE ORDERS TO THEIR FORCES WHEREVER IN CONTACT. THIS WILL PROBABLY CALM THINGS DOWN FOR THE MOMENT, BUT IT LEAVES THE PATHETS FREE TO CONTINUE ENGAGING THE MEO AND THE RIGHTIST FORCES.

C. ARGENTINA: THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN BUENOS AIRES TOLD HIS BRITISH OPPOSITE NUMBER LAST FRIDAY THAT AFTER A HARD STRUGGLE ROME HAD NOW GIVEN HIM "VETO POWER" OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF ENI. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO ATTEMPT BY THE ITALIANS TO "COME IN WITH A STAB IN THE BACK OPERATION" EXPLOITING ANNULMENT OF US AND UK COMPANIES' OIL CONTRACTS.

D. RUMANIA-YUGOSLAVIA: PRESIDENT GHEORGHIU-DEJ'S VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA IS DEFINITELY ON FOR NOVEMBER 22-30. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] RUMANIA HAS BEEN THE MOST RELUCTANT OF THE SOVIET BLOC STATES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH BELGRADE.

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[REDACTED]
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E. ITALY: THE ATMOSPHERE IN ROME IS A BIT STRANGE.

[REDACTED] MORO CALLED THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF TO ASK
THAT A MAJOR EXERCISE INVOLVING 10,000 CARABINIERI SCHEDULED
FOR SATURDAY BE CALLED OFF, ON GROUNDS THAT IT WAS MEANT TO
"INTIMIDATE" HIM AND THE OTHER POLITICIANS NEGOTIATING THE
OPENING TO THE LEFT. AFTER MUCH SCURRYING AROUND AMONG MILI-
TARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES, THE EXERCISE WAS CANCELLED AT
THE LAST MINUTE. [REDACTED]

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